



**Rhode Island's Career Resource Network**

# News Corner

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*Support for Academic and Career Counseling Programs*



## Research: Career Development is Valuable!

Career development professionals face many challenges. The budget shortfalls force programs to justify their existence. Education programs must be supported by "scientific research." A brief reviewing policy-level research from the Center for School Counseling Outcome Research failed to find evidence that the level of school district expenditures for school counseling activities results in measurable increases in student achievement. (View the report on [www.umass.edu/schoolcounseling/Research%20Brief%201.4.pdf](http://www.umass.edu/schoolcounseling/Research%20Brief%201.4.pdf).)

A more positive outlook may be found in a survey of research on "The Educational, Social, and Economic Value of Informed and Considered Career Decisions," by Scott Gillie and Meegan Gillie Isenhour. This report was released this fall by America's Career Resource Network Association (ACRNA), and may be found on the web site [www.acrnetwork.org](http://www.acrnetwork.org).

Gillie found studies showing that career information and services that foster informed and well-planned career decisions have value in educational outcomes, social benefits, and economic consequences.

Such programs were shown to lead to improved educational achievement, better preparation and participation in

postsecondary education, enhanced articulation among levels of education and between education and work, shorter time to graduation, and higher graduation and retention rates.



Social advantages include benefits to family, peers, and community, higher levels of worker satisfaction and career retention, shorter path to primary labor market for young workers, lower incidence of work-related stress and depression, and reduced likelihood of work-related violence.

Economic rewards include higher incomes and increased tax revenues, lower rates and shorter periods of unemployment, lower costs of worker turnover, reduced health care costs, lower incarceration and criminal justice costs, and increased worker productivity.

These findings support anecdotal evidence from schools. Classes using the Real Game Series, for example, report improved attendance and student behavior. Schools in which students have defined their career goals report that since students become more goal-oriented and focused, attendance, behavior, and achievement all improve.

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## Professional Development Opportunities – Spring and Summer

Watch your mail and the CRN web site, [www.dlt.ri.gov/crn](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn), for details and registration information on these two professional development opportunities.



**Improved Career Decision-Making**, a one-day workshop to help counselors and career development professionals use labor market information more effectively, has been extensively updated and redesigned.

**Facilitating Career Development**, a workshop which meets a major requirement for certification as a Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) will be offered in all-day sessions Mondays and Wednesdays starting July 5, 2004 and ending August 11. The curriculum, developed by the National Career Development Association (NCDA - [www.ncda.org](http://www.ncda.org)) will be helpful to practitioners in business, government, community agencies, and schools as well as those transitioning into retirement or recycling into another profession.



## Real Game News

Facilitator (teacher) workshops are scheduled on the following Mondays:

Feb. 2, 2004	Play Real (grades 3-4)
Feb. 9, 2004	Be Real (grades 9-10)
Feb. 16, 2004	Real Times, Real Life (adult)

Registration information has been mailed to schools and organizations and is posted on the CRN web site.

A workshop for The Real Game (grades 7-8) will be held early in 2004. Announcements will be mailed and posted on the CRN web site.



## CIDS News.....

### Career Information Delivery System Choices & other Bridges.com Products

The database of postsecondary undergraduate programs in Choices has been updated since the Choices program was distributed to customers. To update your Choices program, go to the Bridges.com web site and look for Product Updates. The file is easily downloaded, and the download page offers detailed installation instructions.

With your license for a Bridges.com product (Choices, Career Futures, CX Online, Paws in Jobland) you get much more than just the program. Check the Bridges.com web site for a wealth of resources for counselors, teachers, and parents.

## Phil Jarvis Visits Rhode Island

Philip S. Jarvis, vice-president for relationships of the National Life/Work Centre in Ottawa, met with an invited group of Rhode Island policy makers and representatives of professional groups on December 5. Mr. Jarvis has been working with counselors and other career development professionals throughout the world promoting improved programs in schools and agencies.

The main points in his presentation were:

- ◆ Quality career management has significant impact on individuals, business and the economy, and government;
- ◆ The traditional vocational decision-making model expected students to make an informed, long-term career choice before graduating from high school. The realities of today's society require a new model, based on mastery of life-long career management skills including

## Occupational Focus:

### Library and Information Technician

Library technicians work in user services (helping patrons use the library's facilities) and/or technical services (maintaining the library's collections and making them convenient to users). In small libraries technicians may work in both areas, while in large libraries they usually specialize. Technicians may direct clerks, student assistants, or other library technicians. They may also manage small libraries. They may organize and maintain periodicals, prepare books for binding, perform routine cataloging and coding, retrieve information from computer databases, operate and maintain audiovisual equipment, or design posters or displays.



In addition to libraries, there are job opportunities as information technicians in schools, colleges, government departments, hospitals, industry, and other settings.

Education and training requirements vary widely, ranging from a high school diploma to specialized post-secondary or bachelor's training. Some positions require an associate's degree in library technology or a related area. Computer skills are essential, including knowledge of databases and library automation systems.

Nationally, library technicians' average wage is \$11.65/hr. In Rhode Island, it is \$12.28. From 2000 to 2010, a national increase in number employed of 19.5% is projected. In Rhode Island, the increase is projected to be 18%.

For additional information, consult the Occupational Outlook Handbook at [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco), <http://colt.ucr.edu/ltpprograms.html> (list of library technician programs), American Society for Information Science ([www.asis.org](http://www.asis.org)), and American Library Association ([www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)).

transferable employability and personal management for a flexible and constantly changing career;

- ◆ The private sector must support improved career management through support to education and through innovative internships and similar programs;
- ◆ Programs such as the Real Game Series support the new concept of career management education.



Mr. Jarvis may return in 2004 for a larger meeting which would be open to all who wish to come.

## What's New in the CRN Corner?



The 2003-2005 *Rhode Island Career Anchor* will be delivered to schools and organizations soon. The full text is available on the CRN web site in a .pdf file. A **Teacher Guide** with suggestions and reproducible activities to help get maximum value from the *Career Anchor* is in preparation and will be distributed as soon as it is ready.

The **Parent Involvement Guide** is now available from America's Career Resource Network (ACRN) on the web site, [www.acrnetwork.org/parentsguide/index.htm](http://www.acrnetwork.org/parentsguide/index.htm). The "For Parents" section contains eight downloadable brochures and web-based information in four areas of parent involvement: 1) Starting Young, 2) School Success, 3) Career Exploration, and 4) Beyond High School.

**ERIC Clearinghouse** will close December 31. This database of documents has been maintained under grants from the US Department of Education. Much of the information on the ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career and Vocational Education will be archived by the Center for Education and Training for Employment at Ohio State University on its web site [www.cete.org](http://www.cete.org). The Texas Center for Adult Literacy and Learning may also archive the web site at [www-tcall.tamu.edu](http://www-tcall.tamu.edu) (not a typo – that is a dash after the www).

**Dr. Norman Gysbers**, a professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is a leader in the development of comprehensive guidance and counseling programs, including career development and career counseling. You are invited to view a webcast presentation by Dr. Gysbers on the National Dissemination Center web site at [www.nccte.org](http://www.nccte.org).

The **American Honda Foundation** makes grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000 to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and others for programs that benefit youth and scientific education. It seeks programs that are imaginative, scientific, creative, humanistic, youthful, innovative, and forward thinking. Application deadline: February 1, 2004. [www.hondacorporate.com/community/index.html?subsection=foundation](http://www.hondacorporate.com/community/index.html?subsection=foundation).

**Home Depot Foundation Funds Projects for At-Risk Youth** through grants to organizations that provide leadership skill training through community engagement and job readiness training projects for youth ages 12-18. Organizations with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply. Deadline: January 13, 2004. Information at [www.homedepotfoundation.org/](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/).

### *Smart Options* now available

The *Smart Options* program is now available from the National Life/Work Center. This set of career exploration activities is based on the theory of multiple intelligences developed by Howard Gardner and Thomas Armstrong. It consists of four lessons of approximately one hour each. Required materials are a *Facilitator's Guide* (\$14.95) and a *Student's Resource Book* (\$2.00 each) for each student. An optional Poster (\$2.00) highlights suggested occupations and careers for each of the eight smarts and lists relevant web sites. Ordering information is on the Career Resource Network web site [www.dlt.ri.gov/crn](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn).

The program, originally designed for use in middle schools, was pilot tested in schools in Rhode Island and six other states. These sites used it with students ranging in age from 12 to 24. Each student and teacher completed an evaluation. One teacher summarized it thus: "Students really enjoyed Smart Options. They loved the fact that they received their own 'magazine' and wanted to know if they could put it in their portfolios upon completion. The program is laid out extremely well and is easy for teachers to administer." Student comments included: "Smart Options made me realize how many smarts I really have," "I enjoyed figuring out ways that I could use my smarts to my advantage," and "I liked learning more about myself because I really didn't look at myself like that."

The report of the pilot tests and additional information on *Smart Options* may be obtained from the CRN.

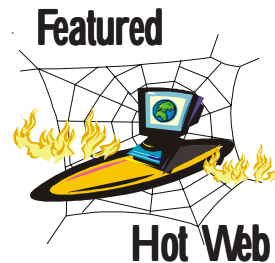
Happy New Year....  
Warmest Wishes  
to you and your family  
from your friends at the  
Career Resource Network!

## A Web Site Worth Surfing:



## Federal Student Aid

<http://studentaid.ed.gov>



The US Department of Education's new web site is a great resource to help students and families get the facts they need to prepare for college. The site provides information in six areas: preparing, choosing, applying, funding, attending, and repaying.

The site has free online tools to help students and families access information about higher education and learn the facts about its affordability. For example, the site offers:

- ◆ A student profile feature to assess career interests, highlight schools that offer degrees in those fields, and offer job search strategies.
- ◆ A calculator to project education costs into the future and to develop a financing plan.
- ◆ Information about federal financial aid programs, tax credits, and links to private scholarship sites.
- ◆ An online federal financial aid application.
- ◆ College admission application processes and standardized testing requirements for school admissions.
- ◆ A planning timeline to help students schedule their high school courses to meet academic requirements for the college of their choice.
- ◆ Information on student and parent loan repayment options.

Do you have comments or suggestions on the contents of our CRN News Corner? Do you have information you'd like us to publish?

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